

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-01

OPIC-03 AID-05 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

STR-01 /080 W

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R 151403Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5244

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, UR

SUBJ: INITIAL GOI REACTIONS TO SOVIET CANCELLATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT

1. ACCORDING TO ISRELI RADIO, INFORMATION MINISTER YARIV, SPEAKING AT KNESSET JANUARY 15, HAS SAID THAT ISRAEL CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT RE CANCELLATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT,

PARTICULARLY AS IT MAY LEAD TO NEW SOVIET RESTRICTIONS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION. YARIV SAID THAT DESPITE CANCELLATION OF US-USSR AGREEMENT GOI WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ASSURE RIGHTS OF EMIGRATION FOR JEWS WISHING TO LEAVE SOVIET UNION.

2. JEWISH AGENCY HEAD MOSHE RAVLIN HAS MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT IN RADIO INTERVIEW, REASSURING SOVIET JEWRY OF GOI INTENTION TO CONTINUE ITS STRUGGLE ON THEIR BEHALF.

3. MFA DIRECTOR OF EASTERN EUROPEAN DIVISION RAVIV HAS TOLD US THAT, IN HIS VIEW, CANCELLATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT SEEMS TO BE ELEMENT IN CONFRONTATION APPARENTLY GOING ON WITHIN SOVIET LEADERSHIP

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AS SUCH, IT CONSTITUTES PHASE OF ESCALATION IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE

ONGOING STRUGGLE BETWEEN PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS OF SOVIET
DETENTE POLICY. CANCELLATION OF AGREEMENT, HE BELIEVED, TRANSCENDED
SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATIONS ON TRADE CREDITS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS, IMMIGRATION LAW, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, FOREIGN TRADE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TELAV00310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750015-1107
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750148/aaaabqjg.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL GOI REACTIONS TO SOVIET CANCELLATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006